

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

March 15, 2006

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, in the Grass Valley City Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA. The meeting was scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Nate Beason, Tim Brady, *Patti Ingram, Russ Steele, *Josh Susman, Robin Sutherland, Conley Weaver

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant

Standing Orders: Chairman Weaver convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:33 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Financial Reports:

A. December 2005 and January 2006

There was no discussion on the December and January Financial Reports.

2. Correspondence:

L. Assemblyman Rick Keene's response to NCTC's letter - Regarding the Governor's "Strategic Growth Plan" and funding for Highway 49 improvements. 3/2/06, File 570.1.

N. Jody Jones, Director, Caltrans District 3 - Response to the City of Grass Valley's letter regarding the two projects in Grass Valley at Idaho-Maryland and East Main Streets. 3/6/06, File 250.

O. Nevada County Board of Supervisors - Notice of reappointment of Tim Brady and Russ Steele to the Nevada County Transportation Commission for a four-year term. 3/3/06, File 820.

Executive Director Landon noted on item 2-L that Assemblyman Keene responded to the Commission's letter regarding the Strategic Growth Plan and potential funding for SR 49. Referring to item 2-N, Caltrans District 3 Director Jody Jones responded to the City of Grass Valley's letter regarding the Idaho-Maryland/East Main Street project and the Idaho-Maryland/SR 20 ramps project. He reported the District has given conceptual approval of Grass Valley's proposed single lane roundabout at Idaho-Maryland/East Main Street, and the Grass Valley City Council gave their staff authorization to proceed to retain a design consultant for that project. Mr. Landon also referenced item 2-O, which indicates the Nevada County Board of Supervisors reappointed Commissioners Brady and Steele to the Transportation Commission.

3. Executive Director's Report:

3.1 Status Report on State Route (SR) 49 Safety Improvements

Executive Director Landon gave a status report on the SR 49 Safety Improvements, as requested by the Commission. A Safety Task Force was formed by Caltrans and they had their initial meeting on February 9, 2006. The California Highway Patrol has continued their increased enforcement activities. Caltrans is moving forward with their interim project to install a soft barrier rumble strip by early Fall 2006. In response to a question from Chairman Weaver, Winder Bajwa, of Caltrans, stated the project will start two miles north of the Nevada County line and will end just south of McKnight Way.

Executive Director Landon clarified the comment he made regarding the Board of Supervisors listing the widening of SR 49 from Combie/Wolf Road as “a” top priority for the Board. Commissioner Beason further explained the activities of the Board regarding traffic safety and transportation improvements, and affirmed that Dorsey Drive is their number one regional traffic priority.

3.2 Dorsey Drive Interchange Project

Executive Director Landon reported that the Dorsey Drive environmental document is available for public review and comment. Commissioner Steele requested that staff put the link to the environmental document on the NCTC website. Mr. Landon stated that Caltrans would conduct a public workshop on the Dorsey Drive project on March 21st from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Grass Valley.

3.3 Origin/Destination (O & D) License Plate Survey Report and

3.4 Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Update

Executive Director Landon referred to information presented at the January NCTC meeting regarding trips going into Fee Zone 8 from outlying areas (Fee Zones 2-7). Mr. Landon explained NCTC staff are working with county and cities staff to integrate the O & D Study into the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) update, and are reviewing projects brought forth by the city and county to include in the update.

*Commissioner Ingram arrived at 8:45 a.m.

Barbara Bashall of the Nevada County Contractors' Association (NCCA) asked for clarification of several items on the O & D Study. The Commissioners discussed the methodology of the O & D Study and whether additional data collection was needed. Barbara Bashall also would like a determination as to whether commercial or residential traffic is putting the most burden on the intersections, as it relates to mitigation fees.

*Commissioner Susman arrived at 9:02 a.m.

Executive Director Landon said he would like to take all of these discussion points back to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Grant Johnson of PRISM Engineering. Commissioner Beason stated he would just like to have a second opinion from an outside consultant. Mr. Landon said he will bring back to the Commission a proposal of how to resolve the issues discussed, and what resources would be needed. At that point the NCTC could decide how to proceed. He asked

the Commission if they would like to hold a special meeting in April to get these points resolved, or wait until the regular May meeting. The Commission stated they want to move this project forward as quickly as possible, without jeopardizing the quality of the work. Chairman Weaver suggested that Executive Director Landon meet with Grant Johnson to determine if it is feasible to have a meeting in April.

3.6 Transportation Needs and Financing Public Opinion Poll

Executive Director Landon reviewed the work done by the Steering Committee on the survey document.

3.7 Fiscal Year 2005/06 Unmet Transit Needs

Executive Director Landon reported the Transit Services Commission would be conducting an unmet needs public hearing later that morning, and then the process would continue to completion.

4. Caltrans District 3:

Project Status Report – Winder Bajwa, Caltrans Project Manager for Nevada County.

Mr. Bajwa gave a brief summary of project activity that has occurred since the last NCTC meeting.

- *Safety Realignment and Widening of SR 20* – Right-of-way properties have been acquired except for three parcels. Tree removal has been completed. The utility relocation work is underway by PG&E. Design work is complete. The project will be taken to the CTC in April for approval, and they plan to advertise the project in May. Construction is planned to begin July or August 2006.
- *Dorsey Drive Interchange* – Mr. Bajwa stated the environmental document was released March 3rd for comment, with a thirty-day circulation period ending April 3rd. An Open House for the public would be held March 21st. Commissioner Brady asked that future reports on Dorsey Drive include the next two or three steps of the project. Mr. Bajwa said the next step would be to close the public comment period on the environmental document, and then address the comments received. Next the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) will look at the document and give Caltrans a decision. At that point the Project Approval process will be completed with a signed report. Mr. Bajwa said the critical consideration in the next few months is how to approach deciding which construction option to go with, because Caltrans is ready to start on the right-of-way (R/W) appraisal and acquisition process.

Commissioner Brady asked what the process would be to determine which of the four phased alternatives would be built first. Mr. Bajwa said the first thing to consider is the operational safety issues of any improvement constructed. Any of the four options must work for ten to fifteen years after it is built, before the level of service deteriorates. The other thing Caltrans wants to do is put together a financial plan, per the request of the Caltrans District 3 Director Jody Jones. Ms. Jones wants to see a plan in place as to how the project will be completed in its entirety. Mr. Bajwa said that funding is the critical issue to getting the entire interchange built.

- *SR 49 Five Lane Widening at the La Barr Meadows Road Intersection* – Mr. Bajwa said they are working on the technical studies. The majority of the environmental studies

have been completed, except the biological work. A consultant has been hired to do the hazardous waste study. Mr. Bajwa noted he would be working with Mr. Landon and Caltrans Planning Department on the issue of sound walls.

- *SR 49 Shoulder Widening Between Lime Kiln Road and Pekolee Road* – Mr. Bajwa reported the work will continue in May or June on this project. The erosion issues caused by heavy rains in December will be addressed as soon as possible.
- *Truckee SR 89 Mousehole* – The Town of Truckee recently passed a resolution asking the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to designate Caltrans as the lead agency. This will be voted on at the June CTC meeting. The next phase of work is Project Approval and Environmental Documentation. A Cooperative Agreement will be drawn up with the Town of Truckee to transfer funds for support work and the environmental phase.
- *Safety Project to Install a Rumble Strip on the Centerline of SR 49 from Combie/Wolf Road to Grass Valley* – Mr. Bajwa explained the project report is being prepared and also the plans and estimates are underway. Construction work is planned for this summer, and no environmental work is required. The estimated cost is \$500,000. Commissioner Beason asked if lane width would be given up with the installation of the rumble strip, and the answer was no. Commissioner Brady mentioned he has driven Highway 12 to Napa, where a rumble strip is installed, and it causes cars to drive noticeably to the right of the strip.

CONSENT ITEMS

5. Certificate of Appreciation: Patti Ingram. *Authorized Chairman to sign.*
6. NCTC Minutes: January 18, 2006. *Approved.*
7. Nevada City Allocation Request for Deferred Revenue: *Approved Resolution 06-01 to reallocate \$32,062 of Local Transportation Funds to Nevada City, as deferred revenue in the 2004/05 fiscal audit, to be used for pedestrian/bicycle safety improvements.*
8. 2006/07 FY State Transit Assistance Apportionments: *Adopted the apportionment table as a basis for allocation from the State Transit Assistance Fund for the 2006/07 FY.*
9. Revised Findings of Apportionment for 2005/06 and Preliminary Findings for 2006/07: *Adopted Resolution 06-02 approving the revised findings of apportionment for the 2005/06 FY Local Transportation Fund revenues, and adopted Resolution 06-03 approving the preliminary findings of apportionment for the 2006/07 FY.*
10. Allocation Request from the City of Grass Valley: *Adopted Resolution 06-04 to allocate \$60,000 of Local Transportation Funds to the City of Grass Valley for sidewalk improvements.*
11. Support Change in Lead Agency Status for SR 89/UPRR Underpass Project: *Adopted Resolution 06-05 to support the Town of Truckee's request for the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to change lead agency status for the Mousehole project from the Town of Truckee to Caltrans.*

Executive Director Landon reported there was a gentleman from the Town of Truckee who was interested in the Mousehole project (Consent Item #11), but because of the weather he was unable to attend the meeting. He requested Mr. Landon read a letter he sent on the Mousehole project into the record (see the Public Comment portion at the end of the meeting).

Chairman Weaver read the Certificate of Appreciation for Patti Ingram (#5). Commissioner Beason made a motion to approve Consent Item #5. Commissioner Susman seconded the motion. Commissioner Beason amended his motion to include Consent Items #6 through #11. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Susman commented on concerns or reservations regarding changing the lead agency status for the Mousehole project from the Town of Truckee to Caltrans. Mr. Landon reviewed comments from CTC staff and explained what was being done to address the issues. Mr. Landon said he would like one of the Commissioners to attend the April CTC meeting with staff to represent the project.

ACTION ITEMS

12. NCTC Revised Meeting Schedule for 2006 and Additional Proposed Workshops

Executive Director Landon noted from discussion at the evening workshop in February, there was a sense that the Commission wanted to move toward project-oriented actions in future meetings. Mr. Landon asked if the Commission wanted to hold additional workshops during the year, and decide on a topic for the next workshop.

A discussion ensued among the Commissioners. Commissioner Susman restated three potential topics for special workshops:

- 1) Grant Johnson of PRISM Engineering to discuss the O & D Study and how it relates to the update of the RTMF.
- 2) The Public Opinion Poll results and the next steps.
- 3) The discussion of the regional map and prioritizing regional projects relating to western Nevada County.

Commissioner Brady would like to discuss and prioritize the regional traffic plan and related projects, and how the projects impact the values of Nevada County. He would like to dialogue to define the values and evaluate how they affect the priorities of the projects.

Commissioner Beason asked if the Commission would agree to just look at the regional map and discuss some of the regional projects that are important to each jurisdiction, and maybe let the staff representing the two cities in western Nevada County participate. Commissioner Susman said in Truckee they looked at several Capital Improvement projects in their priorities. They have a priority list, but also leave the flexibility to have staff plug into funds that become available after the five-year plans have been created. Commissioner Beason stated when the County created their legislative agenda, they factored in opportunistic events. He asked to look at the arterials and look at lists of regional projects that each jurisdiction thinks should be examined.

Jerry Mehren, a member of the public, commented that the February evening workshop was very appreciated and many people were able to speak out on several issues. He commented that they would like to see the regional map completed.

Commissioner Beason wondered if the regional map, list of projects, and the public survey could be discussed at a special meeting, or placed on the agenda of a regular meeting as the Commission can get to them. This would give staff the opportunity to estimate what is doable within a time frame. A discussion ensued among the Commissioners as to the timing of a special meeting, and it was agreed to hold a special meeting April 26th to allow Grant Johnson of PRISM Engineering the opportunity to give a presentation on the O & D Study and the RTMF Update.

Commissioner Brady made a motion to approve the June 21st meeting and approve the agenda for that meeting at the May 17th meeting. Commissioner Beason seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Landon reiterated the motion that a special meeting date of June 21st has been identified, based on staff's report. The topic for that meeting will be set at the May 17th meeting, by choosing from the three previously stated topics. Staff would then come back with a list of how those priority projects would be accomplished and provide a time frame for them.

Commissioner Susman wondered if Mr. Landon could include in future Executive Director's Reports what staff's timelines are for the next NCTC meeting, and what is time sensitive a month away. Executive Director Landon replied he understands this to mean staff should create a list of reoccurring projects and activities, and when they are going to be scheduled. Commissioner Susman said that would give the Commission a perspective as to how full staff's daily schedule is.

13. Federal Transit Administration Section 5310

Executive Director Landon explained this is an ongoing Federal grant program that provides funding for paratransit vehicles and equipment, provided through Gold Country Telecare. Three grant applications were received from Telecare.

Commissioner Steele made a motion to approve Resolution 06-06. Commissioner Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Resort Triangle Transportation Planning Coalition MOA

Executive Director Landon explained the activities associated with the Resort Triangle Transportation Planning Coalition. This is a formalization of an activity staff is already doing, and there is no additional financial obligation involved with this action.

Commissioner Beason made a motion to approve Resolution 06-07. Commissioner Steele seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Amendment III to the 2005/06 Overall Work Program

Executive Director Landon reported that line items needed adjustment with no net change in the total budget. There was also a need to increase the budget to complete the traffic modeling for air quality conformity, and the update of the model within the current year, as the Commission directed at the September 2005 meeting. Commissioners discussed coordination of traffic modeling by NCTC, the County, and the City of Grass Valley.

Commissioner Steele made a motion to adopt Resolution 06-08. Commissioner Ingram seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Proposed Projects for 2006/07 Overall Work Program

Executive Director Landon said the requested action is to direct NCTC staff to submit the 2006/07 Overall Work Program (OWP) to the City of Grass Valley, Nevada City, the Town of Truckee, and Nevada County for their review and comment. The final document will be brought back to the Commission in May.

Commissioner Beason said this coincides with many of the Nevada County Board of Supervisor's priorities. He stated the County views alternative transportation plans, such as bicycle transportation, as important and would like to see it as a more active element of the OWP.

Commissioner Steele mentioned there is air quality funding that might come forward in the future, but he did not see that listed in the 06/07 OWP. Executive Director Landon explained this is known as Congestion Management Air Quality funds. Based on Nevada County's designation as a non-attainment area, the County will be receiving approximately \$800,000 per year from the Federal government for projects that can be shown to meet the criteria of improving air quality. Mr. Landon said these monies are outside of the OWP, in the form of a grant that the NCTC will administer, but NCTC staff would not be implementing the projects. Commissioner Steele is interested in expanding the transportation model to have a mitigation for the use of broadband.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Grant Cattaneo, representing CCAT, gave the Commission a handout stating concerns regarding the design of the Dorsey Drive Interchange. The handout recommended a scaled down version of the intersection by using the current overpass, and using a tight diamond approach of three of the four ramps, with the fourth ramp being a connector to Joerschke on the westbound side.

Tom Guendie, a resident of Nevada City and a member of The Alliance for People-Powered Transportation, urged that whenever there is a traffic proposal being discussed, to think of how bicycles could fit into the traffic project.

Executive Director Landon read a letter for the record from Denny Dickenson, resident of Truckee, who is in support of the SR 89 Mousehole project in Truckee. He is concerned the bridge is becoming structurally unsound and he attached a Caltrans bridge inspection report. He encouraged the NCTC to put pressure on the California Transportation Commission and Caltrans to replace the bridge within five years.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Brady reported the Calistoga News and Review had an interesting article about the joint acceptance of the Napa and Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to have a 1/2-cent sales tax bond. There were three components that made it successful: 1) They had a primary identified project, like Dorsey Drive, that had to do with safety and efficiency. 2) It was non-growth inducing. 3) There was an alternate transportation component to the sales tax, such as a bike trail.

Commissioner Ingram announced the City of Grass Valley approved an RFP for the engineering design of a single lane roundabout at Idaho-Maryland/East Main Street intersection. The City has received conceptual approval from Caltrans and the go ahead to get an engineering design. Mayor Tassone and Ms. Ingram sent documentation for a request for full funding of Dorsey Drive to Senator Sam Aanestad and Assemblyman Rick Keene.

Commissioner Steele announced he received communication from a member of the public. The message is they would like the Commission to stop confusing bike trails with bike lanes.

Commissioner Beason stated that the Board of Supervisors meeting was moved from March 14th to March 21st, due to the snowstorm. He commented that the Board of Supervisors also wrote letters to legislators requesting the Dorsey Drive Interchange project be included in State funding.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next Commission meeting is a special meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., at the Nevada City Council Chambers, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Commissioner Beason moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Steele seconded the motion. Chairman Weaver adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Antoinette Perry, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Conley S. Weaver, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission